

# TENTATIVE PROSPECTUS

of

## A Clinton Hill Neighborhood Center

A proposed service facility to be available to all residents, of every age and background, in the Clinton Hill section of Newark, New Jersey.

Prepared by

the Committee on the Neighborhood Center,  
Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council,  
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August 8, 1968

## A Clinton Hill Neighborhood Center

1. The purpose of the Center is to fill an urgent need for a place where neighborhood youths and adults of every background could participate in constructive supervised activities - a place which would provide a common meeting ground for all residents and encourage a sense of oneness in the community.

2. Neighborhood enthusiasm and support for a Center was expressed at the Assembly of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council on July 16, 1968. Representatives of the Council's block branches and member institutions, and the elected officers, resolved:

- a. that the Council go on record as favoring the acquisition of a building to be used as a Neighborhood Center.
- b. that the Council ascertain the feasibility of raising money to purchase property for the establishment of such a Center.
- c. that a special committee be created to report by August 13th, the next Council Assembly meeting, on available properties and financial resources in the community and in the city.

3. Organization of a Center. An independent non-profit corporation with ten to twenty responsible trustees drawn from representative levels in community life would purchase, supervise, and maintain the Center.

The ex officio relationship between the Center and the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council would be spelled out in detail in the charter of the Center corporation.

4. Programming for the Center. (Consultants: Dr. Antoinette Fried, formerly director, Fuld Neighborhood House; Jacob W. Feldman, director, Group Work and Recreation Division, Council of Social Agencies.)

Programming would begin on an experimental basis with supervised group activities for pre-school children, young teens and senior citizens. It would in time, if successful, provide such requested activities as:

- a. Arts and crafts groups.
- b. Cooking and sewing classes.
- c. Reading and language clinics.
- d. Teen-age employment center.
- e. Choral groups.

The program might also initiate and supervise such overall community activities as:

- a. Halloween Parade.
- b. Arts Festival.
- c. Day Camp departure center.
- d. Information center (legal, housing, social agency).
- e. Meeting place for clubs.

Note: Programming would be especially directed toward offerings in areas not currently provided by other community institutions.

#### 5. Staff.

- a. A paid full-time director, professionally qualified.
- b. Several paid part-time group workers, as need requires.
- c. Competent volunteers.
- d. Paid maintenance worker and family.

#### 6. Budget.

- a. Annual operating expenses (estimated):

Director, full-time....	\$7,000
Maintenance, live-in...	3,000 plus rent.
Group workers, part-time	8,000
Building maintenance...	1,000
Office expenses.....	<u>1,000</u>
Insurance, etc.....	800
Mortgage.....	<u>1,700</u>

TOTAL	\$19,200
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- b. Site acquisition and equipment (capital outlay)

Down payment on building...	\$5,000
Equipment, furnishings.....	<u>4,500</u>

TOTAL	\$9,500
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7. Method of financing: Solicitation as follows:

- a. Clinton Hill community at-large, door-to-door.
- b. Philanthropic foundations.
- c. Businesses and industries in the area.
- d. Community institutions.

Fund-raising would be carried on by individual and institutional members of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council and the various block branches.

8. Choice of site:

a. Location determinants.

- 1. Closeness to bus lines, main streets.
- 2. Central location in community.
- 3. Adequate parking facilities.
- 4. Easy access for all age groups.

b. Building determinants.

- 1. Structurally sound and good value.
- 2. Non-institutional character of building.
- 3. Many smaller rooms for group-centered club-type activities.

c. Possible choices:

- 1. 596 Clinton Avenue, opposite Baldwin fulfills above.
- 2. Zoning variance may be needed for conduct of youth activities at 596 Clinton Avenue.

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